

Institute (PLTI) that is currently in 16 communities in Connecticut and has been replicated elsewhere. Through PLTI, parents offer an enormous amount of time volunteering for children. This is a valuable component of the program along with the training that enhances the participants' lives with a trickle down throughout their communities. This is just one example of the work of the Commission on Children.

The Commission has also worked hard to find additional funding sources to assist families in need. They worked to bring federal dollars to Connecticut, including: the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Contingency Fund, valued at \$53 million; the Food Stamp Employment Training (FSET) 50/50 match fund, valued at \$2.5 million; and Medicaid payment for home visitation, valued at \$7 million.

How can we even consider eliminating the Commission on Children when it is an agency that has clear and positive outcomes such as the above mentioned?

While I understand the need for spending cuts as well as the need for careful scrutiny of agencies within state government and their role, I believe that careful scrutiny by the Appropriations Committee will find it ridiculous to support the elimination of the Commission on Children. I ask for your open and honest eye on this matter and am sure you will see what I see – The Commission on Children is a program worth your support. Please maintain this program within the FY2011 Budget and allow it to continue to support our young people and their families for a stronger Connecticut.

As a tax-payer of the City of Middletown, an active member of the Middletown School Readiness Council and Republican member of the Middletown Board of Education, I see first hand the work of this agency and its impact on children, their families, communities and the state as a whole. For those reasons I ask that you please take into consider my testimony today and thank you for doing so.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sheila C. Daniels
896 Millbrook Road
Middletown, CT 06457
860-301-9724